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During the monsoons, however, it was no less devastating than any stream in North Travancore, the reason being that it had been gradually silting up of late and water in the *yelas* was drained into it; consequently the adjoining lands were submerged. Cultivation had to be given up and there was no crop last year in the locality on this account. The Member further said that the reasonableness of his request was approved of by the Irrigation Engineer. The people of the place were willing to bear half the cost of putting up a sluice to prevent this damage.

Dewan.—The matter will be looked into. The Peishkar says that the work may be done, because, after all, in this case, the expenditure would not come to more than Rs. 300.

Improving the banks of the Kodayar channels in Nanjanad.

Mr. Ramaswamy Meenakshi Chettiyar (Member, Nagercoil Trading Classes) stated that, in some parts of the canal side, especially in the Ananthankulam canal, want of cartable roads caused great difficulty to the ryots in the matter of the transport of manure to, and paddy and other produce from, the fields. At present these were carried by coolies at great inconvenience and loss. The Member said further that, considering the enormous outlay on the Kodayar project, the Government should not grudge the small expenditure that might be necessary for the improvement of the roads on both sides of the canal, which afforded great facilities to the cultivators. He prayed therefore that the banks of the canals be broadened and improved so as to make them cartable.

Dewans' reply.—Noted.

51. Certain works for affording facilities for trade in Quilon.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Quilon Trading Classes) pointed out the necessity for suitable buildings on the beach and near the Railway Station to store dutiable articles before taking them to the Customs authorities. The merchants were forced to pay demurrage to boatmen and to the Railway for detention, and sometimes the goods got damaged by being exposed to sun and rain. The Member therefore urged that godowns should be built on the beach, as well as near the Railway Station, for facilitating trade. He also proposed that the roads on both sides of the canal, from Kochupilamoodu to Sanjayakadavu, be opened for traffic and that boat basins be constructed here and there on the canal.

Dewan.—The Government have called for an estimate for a godown on the beach.

52. The improvement of the Parur market by extending it

Mr. A. Govinda Menon, B. A. (Member, Parur taluk) said that the place where the market was held was dirty and narrow.

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and providing it with a good landing place for goods.

More than a lac of people, from the taluks of Parur and Alengad, resorted there. More than 200 boats came there on market days, but there were no proper landing ghauts. The Member further stated that, during flood time, one-half of the place was under water and the current of the stream was too strong to admit of boats halting there. Under the circumstances, he urged the necessity for improving the market place and the landing ghaut.

Dewan.—An estimate will be called for from the Chief Engineer.

53. The necessity for protecting the Quilon beach from Vady to Kochupilamoodu from the encroachments of the sea by putting up suitable groynes and for improving the portion adjoining the Butts and the Rifle Range grounds into a Marina.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) represented that, of late, the sea at Quilon between Thangacherry and Kochupilamoodu was rapidly advancing. The sea had been advancing for the last 50 years, at the rate of 15 ft. per year, and at this rate it was likely to wash away 1,000 to 2,000 trees and as many huts within a few years, if not prevented. The places where the encroachments were apprehended most, were near Kochupilamoodu and west of the cutcherry. The Member proposed, as a protective measure, the construction of 10 suitable groynes, the cost of which could not be regarded as very high, considering the seriousness of the situation.

Dewan.—The D. P. W. is watching the action of the sea with great care. I shall see that the matter is not lost sight of.

VI. Public Health.

(1) Town Improvement Committees.

54. The necessity for enlarging the powers of the Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) stated that, in view of the growing demands upon the Committees and their inability to meet them, the powers of the Committees should be enlarged in the matter of spending the allotted amounts and in the matter of appointments. He said that, in cases of urgency, when it was not possible to obtain the previous sanction of the Government to appropriate the amount under one item towards another, it must be left to the discretion of the Committee to spend the amount subject to the Budget control of the Government. As regards the power of appointments, the Member said that the President, who had his headquarters at Padmanabhapuram, would be unable to control the working of the staff, and that effective working was possible only if the Committee was empowered in the matter of appointments, fines, &c.

Dewan's reply.—If there is a surplus under any major head, you have only to send up a re-appropriation

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